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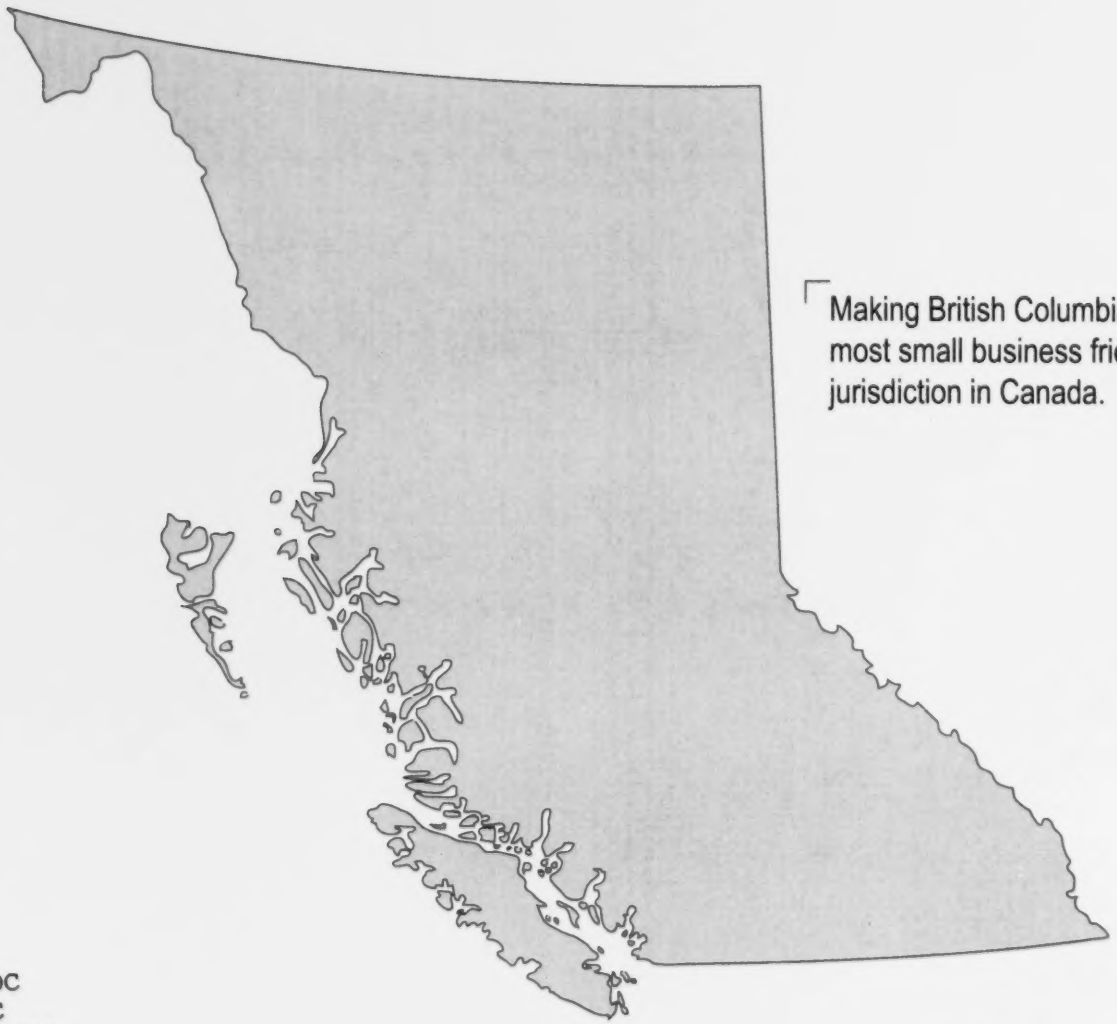
Small Business Roundtable

Second Annual Report To Government



Making British Columbia the most small business friendly jurisdiction in Canada.

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Message from the Vice-Chair

I am pleased to present the Small Business Roundtable Annual Report for 2007. This report summarizes the Roundtable's activities since our first Report to Government in October 2006.

In 2007, we broadened our dialogue with business, adding small business tours to our agenda. Roundtable members appreciated the opportunity to talk with business owners one-on-one in their place of business, building on the findings of our formal consultations. The businesses we toured were progressive, innovative, and – not surprisingly, given the strength of our economy – largely concerned with the challenges of managing success.

Many businesses see opportunities to grow, but recognize the challenges inherent in recruiting and retaining skilled employees in today's labour market. In our small business tours and continuing consultations, we heard about challenges related to competitive taxation and regulatory requirements, as well as challenges specific to certain economic sectors and geographic regions.

We heard about solutions, too, with many British Columbia businesses keen to take advantage of emerging opportunities in areas such as tourism and climate action. We received feedback and direction in developing small business tools and supports – including a new skills development program based on public-private partnerships.

Last year, the Roundtable members developed a Small Business Lens and recommended the provincial government apply the Lens to all new or amended regulations to ensure the impacts on small business are known and addressed. We were pleased the province adopted the Lens into its regulatory reform criteria in February 2007. During the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Annual Convention 2007, municipalities also endorsed a resolution to adopt the Lens.

As we prepare for a third year of Roundtable activities, I am confident the province will achieve its goal – building on its already impressive record of business friendliness. I also have great confidence in our small businesses, and look forward to serving again as their voice to the Government of British Columbia.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of our retiring board members: Kevin Evans, formerly with the Retail Council of Canada and recently appointed as Chief Executive Officer, Industry Training Authority; Neal Davies, Vice-President and General Manager, Cantex Group of Companies; Manse Binkley, Owner, Harmony Honda; and Jackie Chaytor, President, Chaytor Holdings Ltd.

On Behalf of the Small Business Roundtable,

Linda Larson, Vice-Chair
Small Business Roundtable

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Small Business Roundtable Consultations
Small Business Profile 2007
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Introduction and Background

Director of Operations Patrick Siew shows Minister Thorpe and Langley MLA Mary Polak the Heli-Welders Canada Ltd. facility during a small business tour in Langley on February 6, 2007.

The Small Business Roundtable was established in 2005 to provide advice to government and the small business sector on issues, strategies, and potential actions to support British Columbia in becoming the most small business friendly jurisdiction in Canada.

Chaired by Honourable Rick Thorpe, Minister of Small Business and Revenue and Minister Responsible for Regulatory Reform, the 22-member Roundtable is comprised of small business leaders representing various regions, industries, associations, and small businesses throughout British Columbia.

During its first year, the Roundtable undertook a series of consultations with small business owners throughout the province to identify key opportunities and issues. Based on those consultations, the Roundtable developed recommendations to government and the small business sector aimed at supporting the continued growth and success of small business in British Columbia.

More information on the Small Business Roundtable, its members, and a report on the Roundtable's first year activities is available at www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca

Following the release of the Roundtable's first report, the government produced an Action Plan for Small Business, which includes actions addressing the Roundtable's recommendations to government.

This Annual Report provides highlights of the Roundtable's activities during its second year of operation.

Highlights of Activities in 2007

In the 2006 Annual Report, the Small Business Roundtable made a commitment to support small business growth in British Columbia in 2007 by focusing its efforts on four key priorities:

1. Support Human Resource Access, Development, and Education
2. Support Regulatory Reform
3. Enhance Small Business Resources and Support
4. Continue Dialogue with Small Business Community

The following is a summary of the Roundtable's activities in these areas.

1. Support Human Resource Access, Development, and Education

British Columbia's small businesses are generally thriving and feeling optimistic about the future. During consultations and small business tours by Roundtable members, business owners reported their greatest challenge in 2007 was "managing success". Many businesses want to expand their operations. However, with the economy booming and unemployment at record lows, finding and retaining suitable employees continues to be a major challenge.

This underlines the importance of the Roundtable's 2006 commitment to work with government and small business to support human resource access, development, and education. The Roundtable's activities in this area since 2006 include the following.

- *Building Skills for Small Business in British Columbia* – The Roundtable is working in partnership with the BC Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Retail BC, and the Okanagan College School of Business to develop public-private partnerships to fill existing gaps in small business education and workforce skills development.

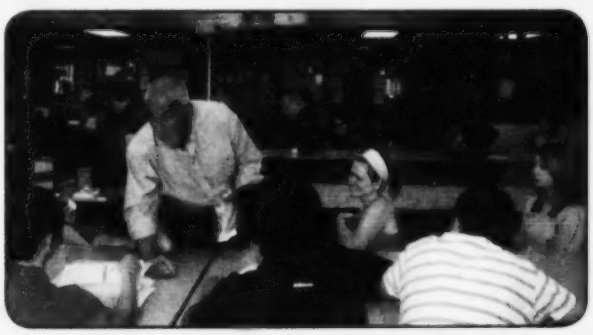
  The role of the partners is to assess opportunities, research existing programs, and set aggressive timelines for on-the-ground action. They will also explore the potential for co-op and internship opportunities to help small businesses recruit and retain the workers they need to keep growing.

  The province has invested $1 million to support this initiative. The college will develop a Small Business Human Resource self-diagnostic tool and handbook to be implemented as a pilot project in the fall of 2007, with full implementation in January 2008.

- *Supporting the expansion of Junior Achievement British Columbia (JABC)* – Roundtable Vice-Chair Linda Larson has been appointed to the Board of Directors of JABC. This relationship further strengthens JABC's ties to small business and supports its ongoing expansion. JABC delivers business education to students across British Columbia, helping to promote entrepreneurship and business as viable, exciting career options.

  In 2006, the province invested $2 million in JABC to support expanding the breadth and depth of program delivery in elementary, middle, and high schools. JABC programs are currently delivered to more than 25,000 students in 33 school

In October 2006, a Scotiabank survey revealed small businesses in British Columbia are the most optimistic in the country, with 38 per cent expecting stronger performance in the year ahead – well above the national level of 28 per cent.



Minister Thorpe visits with students in a JABC class at Lakewood Junior Secondary School in Prince George on June 4, 2007. The Grade 10 students are part of JABC's program called the Economics of Staying in School during which they learn financial planning, budgeting, and goal-setting for the future.

Highlights of Activities in 2007 (cont'd)

Minister Thorpe, John Rustad, MLA for Prince George-Omenica, and Small Business Roundtable member Bruce Sutherland visit small business owner and operator Sherry Green at J.J. Springer & Company in Prince George on June 4, 2007. From left to right: Bruce Sutherland, Sherry Green, Minister Thorpe and MLA John Rustad.

districts. The goal is to expand to 43 school districts in 2008/09, 48 school districts in 2009/10, and all 60 school districts by 2010/11.

2. Support Regulatory Reform

Since 2001, the province has made significant progress in reducing the overall tax and regulatory burden placed on small business. The Roundtable is pleased to note that from June 2001 to August 31, 2007, the province reduced regulatory requirements across government by 42.55 per cent or 163,243 regulations. All British Columbia government ministries and agencies are committed to maintaining a zero net increase in regulatory requirements through to 2008.

In spite of these improvements, in their dialogue with Roundtable members in 2007, small business leaders were clear that reducing both costs and complexity in this area remains a priority.

Roundtable activities in 2007 supporting regulatory reform included the following.

- *Championing the Small Business Lens* – The Lens is a tool developed by the Roundtable in 2006 to help ensure the impacts on small business are considered in the development of all new legislation and regulations. The Lens was formally adopted by the Province in February 2007. Roundtable members are now championing the adoption of the Lens by federal and local governments. *The Roundtable is pleased to report that a resolution for municipalities to adopt the Lens was endorsed during the 2007 Annual Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.*
- *Encouraging local governments to participate in BizPaL* – BizPaL provides one-window, online access to business licence and permitting information by jurisdiction, significantly simplifying the process for businesses. Roundtable members are actively encouraging all local governments to participate, with a goal of extending the service to all British Columbia communities within five years. At the urging of the Roundtable, British Columbia was the first province to sign a five year Memorandum of Understanding with the federal government, ensuring sustainable access to BizPaL.
- *Encouraging the adoption of a Single Business Licence* – The Ministry of Small Business and Revenue is the lead provincial ministry in developing a Single Business Licence Framework to help reduce the regulatory complexity for small businesses operating in more than one municipality. Rather than having to apply for and maintain licences in every jurisdiction in which they work, business owners will be able to get a Single Business Licence that allows them to operate across jurisdictions. The Roundtable is actively supporting this initiative, which has also been strongly endorsed by the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce, the British Columbia Restaurant and Food Services Association, the British Columbia and Yukon Hotels' Association, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, and Retail BC (see Appendix A).

"We saw the forum as a natural extension of the advice and support we provide to growing and developing Aboriginal businesses." – Ray Gerow, President, Aboriginal Business Development Centre

3. Enhancing Small Business Resources and Support

From start-up assistance to advice on succession planning, small business owners need a variety of services and resources to help them meet a diverse range of challenges. In 2007, the Roundtable worked with key partners to expand and improve the supports available to British Columbia small businesses through a number of initiatives, including the following.

- *Hosting a regional forum to support business growth and development* – During the Roundtable's 2006 consultations, small businesses said they needed more educational support. Responding to that need, the Roundtable held a regional forum in Prince George in June 2007, bringing small business owners together with government representatives and experts from the public and private sectors to share information and facilitate new opportunities. The forum was co-sponsored by the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Initiatives Prince George, and the Aboriginal Business Development Centre.

  Topics covered at the forum included: advice on marketing products and services to Asia, an overview of 2010 opportunities for small business, a presentation from WorkBC on its new Employer's Toolkit, and an overview of services and resources provided by Small Business BC. The Roundtable and the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue will organize additional forums in the coming months.

- *Supporting the development of Regional Skills Force Advisory Councils* – The BC Skills Force Initiative is establishing Regional Skills Force Advisory Councils to seek out strategies to meet existing and emerging workforce needs in the various geographic regions of the province. Roundtable members will participate in the Regional Skills Advisory Councils to ensure the voice of small business is considered in developing and implementing any new workforce strategies.

- *Strengthening the Roundtable's relationship with Small Business BC* – Small Business BC is British Columbia's key resource for business information and services. In 2007, Roundtable members Ian Tostenson and Barrie Carter were appointed to the organization's Board of Directors, cementing the already strong link between the two groups. The Roundtable provides advice on an ongoing basis to ensure Small Business BC services meet existing and emerging business needs. Small Business BC showcased their services at the Roundtable's regional forum in Prince George.

- *Creating an Employer's Toolkit to help small businesses address their workforce needs* – The Roundtable is supporting WorkBC in developing a human resource toolkit to help ensure the toolkit adequately addresses the current and emerging issues faced by small businesses in British Columbia. The toolkit will

"Small business owners are often too busy with their day-to-day work to explore new opportunities and markets, so delivering concentrated, expert advice in a short forum is valuable to them."
– Garth Frizzell, President, Prince George Chamber of Commerce

Small Business Roundtable Vice-Chair Linda Larson, Roundtable member Murray Presley, and Minister Thorpe tour Campbell River small business York Portable Machine Tool with owner Dennis Cambrey on March 20, 2007. From left to right: Dennis Cambrey, Murray Presley, Linda Larson, and Minister Thorpe.

Highlights of Activities in 2007 (cont'd)

provide practical approaches to addressing specific skill and labour shortages, including strategies supporting recruitment from under-represented employee groups and promoting employment in the small business sector in general.

4. Continue Dialogue with Small Business Community

In 2007, the Roundtable broadened its dialogue with British Columbia's small business community. Building on the findings of consultations conducted province-wide in 2006, the Roundtable added small business tours to its scope of activities. The Roundtable also continued its consultations to stay current with emerging issues and support small business in identifying and pursuing new opportunities.

- *Small Business Tours* – Small business tours provide an opportunity for business owners to express their views and share their ideas in a casual setting, and for Roundtable members to see small business innovators in action. Between February and July 2007, the Roundtable Chair Minister Rick Thorpe, Roundtable Vice-Chair Linda Larson, and other Roundtable members toured small businesses in eight communities: Vernon, Parksville, Revelstoke, Campbell River, Richmond, Langley, Merritt, and North Shore. Many of the businesses toured said attracting and retaining skilled workers continues to be a key challenge. Other issues raised included:
  - ✓ *Recruit, develop, and retain staff resources* – some businesses reported that they could not get spaces in apprenticeship programs for potential employees, others reported that too many seats in apprenticeship programs were not being filled.
  - ✓ *Regulatory environment* – several businesses cited concerns about red tape. For example, the Vernon airport is planning an expansion and facing a complex environmental assessment process as it prepares to relocate a creek. Other businesses cited concerns in areas such as immigration as they look outside Canada to help meet their labour needs.
  - ✓ *Housing* – a number of businesses cited challenges around affordability and availability of housing as barriers to attracting staff, especially in lower-paying positions. Vacancy rates in some British Columbia communities are at or near zero per cent.
- *Consultations* – Between March and July 2007, Roundtable members held consultations to follow up on issues raised and recommendations made in 2006, and to enhance government's understanding of region- and industry-specific issues and potential actions. Roundtable members consulted with representatives from a wide range of sectors in

Jurgen Kettler, owner of the Needle & Art Centre and Pier Street Gallery in Campbell River, visits with Small Business Roundtable member Murray Presley and Minister Thorpe on March 20, 2007.

Canadian Heli-Structures in Langley, a helicopter repair business located in the airport, has come up with an innovative way to recruit new employees. Rather than focusing solely on BCIT grads, the company introduced the concept of job shadowing for high school students. This gives young people the opportunity to find out if the job is right for them before the company invests in training. As a bonus, the City of Langley's main high school is right across the street from the airport.

five communities: Campbell River, Merritt, Prince George, Vernon, and Revelstoke.

Roundtable members began the consultations by confirming the issues raised during 2006 continue to be key challenges. They also asked for input in four additional areas: climate action, tourism, innovative approaches and support for small business in local communities. Highlights of the consultations are summarized below.

Participants at the consultation held in Vernon on July 12, 2007 discuss small business issues and opportunities. The Vernon consultation saw the largest turnout to date at 48 participants.

- ✓ *Perspectives on issues raised in the 2006 Roundtable Consultations* – Businesses in all communities noted continuing challenges with finding workers. Some noted with unemployment rates so low, it is difficult in today's economic climate to find any workers. A key theme arising from these discussions was the need to attract workers from other jurisdictions. Opportunities noted in the consultations included encouraging international students to stay in British Columbia and bring their families, and enhancing marketing of British Columbia immigration in Europe.

  Another key theme in these discussions was training. Opportunities identified in this area included increasing the focus on job training in high schools, developing new mentoring programs and organizing consortiums of businesses to share the costs of training employees.

- ✓ *Challenges with Taxes and Regulatory Requirements* – A number of businesses said recent changes to the provincial sales tax have been very useful. However, the complexity of rules and regulations related to the PST continue to be a challenge. Some businesses also noted the immigration process could be streamlined. One opportunity put forward was to use FrontCounter BC as a model for a one-stop immigration application process.

- ✓ *ClimateAction Issues and Opportunities* – Small businesses taking part in the 2007 consultations said they need more information and incentives to further the growth of "green" business in the province. Alternative energy was seen as a promising area for future growth. However, businesses noted concerns about costs, especially compared to British Columbia's electricity rates, which are among the lowest in North America.

  Businesses noted many opportunities for them to get involved in climate action, including exploring co-generation and increasing production of locally-grown foods. Some suggested that the Province use the term "energy efficiency" or "energy use" when communicating with small business, saying these phrases resonate better with them than "climate action."

British Columbia businesses have many good ideas for benefiting from climate action. During the Roundtable's 2007 consultations, one business owner suggested manufacturing cardboard cases for compact discs in British Columbia. This would not only be more environmentally friendly, but would also reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with importing from outside the province.

Highlights of Activities in 2007 (cont'd)

In Revelstoke, museums and galleries met with great success after forming a collective to support joint marketing. When a major travel writer from Vancouver was planning a story on the Revelstoke Rail Museum, the scope of the article was broadened considerably after learning about the community's other museums and heritage attractions.

- *Tourism Issues and Opportunities* – Many of the businesses consulted expressed concerns about Tourism BC's marketing efforts being too focused on Vancouver and Whistler. They suggested more regional initiatives. *The Roundtable has been advised Tourism BC will undertake a series of regional Roundtables beginning in the fall of 2007 to address regional tourism issues.*

  A number of businesses also talked about the need to ensure all communities benefit from the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. People in several communities noted opportunities for businesses to work together in joint tourism promotion initiatives.

- *Innovative Approaches for Enhancing Small Business* – Across British Columbia, businesses are increasingly forming partnerships and consortiums to support joint marketing and promotions. For example, Merritt is joining with four other area communities to market the region as Gold Country, and businesses in Revelstoke's heritage sector have formed a museums and galleries collective. These partnerships allow small businesses to pool their resources, maximize their exposure, and share in one another's successes.

  A number of businesses are also pursuing innovation in their human resource strategies and increasingly adapting to their workers' needs. Approaches include providing flexible schedules, supporting access to child care, and measuring productivity by output, rather than by the number of hours worked.

- *Enhancing Small Business in Local Communities* – Businesses consulted in 2007 put forward many promising ideas – from increasing the availability of technical and trades courses in high schools to addressing local transportation issues which are seen as impediments to tourism. Public-private partnerships, mentoring programs, and support for Aboriginal business development were also cited as ways to enhance small business in local communities.

  For more information on the 2007 Roundtable consultations, go to www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca

Roundtable Recommendations

Based on the findings of its consultations and small business tours in 2007, the Roundtable makes the following recommendations to government and the small business sector.

Recommendations to Small Business

The Roundtable suggests small business owners consider the following recommendations.

- Become more aware, and take full advantage, of training opportunities provided by both the public and private sectors – *contact Small Business BC or WorkBC.*
- Recognize action on climate change as an economic opportunity, as well as an environmental imperative.
- Consider more consortium approaches to marketing and promotion to harness opportunities arising from the 2010 Winter Olympics and British Columbia's role as Gateway to the Asia-Pacific – *contact the 2010 Commerce Centre.*
- Consider opportunities to work with Junior Achievement on a volunteer basis to contribute your knowledge and expertise to the next generation of entrepreneurs – *contact Junior Achievement BC.*
- Continue to inform government of regulatory impediments and where these can be alleviated to create time savings for small business and individuals – *contact Small Business Roundtable.*
- Continue to inform government of, and provide solutions to, PST complexities and other tax applications that impede competitiveness for small business in British Columbia – *contact Small Business Roundtable or the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue.*

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Tel: 1-877-388-4440

Recommendations to Government

The Roundtable recommends government continue to focus on the following areas to support the goal of making British Columbia the most small business friendly jurisdiction in Canada.

1. Support human resource access, development, and education
2. Reduce the regulatory complexity for small business
3. Continue to reduce sales tax complexity for small business and ensure tax competitiveness

In particular, the Roundtable recommends the following actions.

- Develop a Small Business Report Card to benchmark and measure British Columbia's progress in becoming the most small business friendly jurisdiction in Canada, and establish appropriate performance goals to measure achievements through to 2012.

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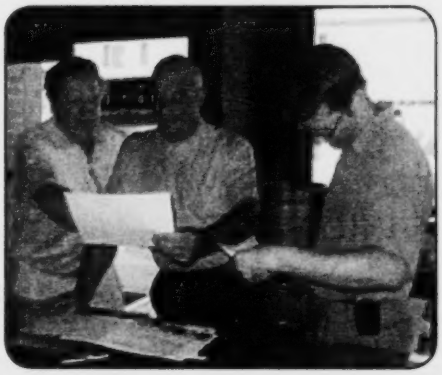
Roundtable Recommendations (Cont'd)

Partnership Targets Niche Markets:

Coldwater Rail and Post in Merritt is a partnership between Aspen Planers and the Coldwater Indian Band. They manufacture dowling, fence posts ,and agricultural posts from trees that are too small for lumber. The business operates on Band land and employs about 18 Band members. Business is brisk with products exported to places such as California and Florida.



Minister Thorpe and Okanagan-Vernon MLA Tom Christensen get a peek at Frank Dieter's product recipes at Okanagan Spirits during a small business tour in Vernon on July 12, 2007. From left to right: Frank Dieter, Minister Thorpe and MLA Tom Christensen.

- Focus on saving time for business by streamlining and simplifying the regulatory environment for small business. This can be accomplished by continuing to implement BizPaL and a single business licence across the province. Also, extend the current zero net increase in regulations to 2012.
- In partnership with small business, develop and implement a Climate Action Plan for Small Business focusing on climate action as an economic opportunity as well as an environmental imperative.
- Champion regulatory reform at all levels of government and seek pilot projects with federal, provincial, and municipal governments to reduce and streamline regulatory requirements.
- Support public-private partnerships in education to expand access to entrepreneurial training and development.
- Work with small business partners on the labour supply issue, championing simplification of immigration processes and developing education programs to provide our youth with the skills and knowledge required in today's business world.

Roundtable Commitments Going Forward

The Small Business Roundtable will continue its commitment, as stated in its 2006 Report to Government, to champion issues, opportunities, and activities that support small business growth.

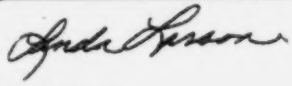
The Roundtable will continue to provide small business with a voice in government, with a particular focus on activities that further small business interests in the following areas.

- Human resource access, development, and education
- Regulatory reform at all levels of government
- Climate action issues and opportunities
- Reduction of tax complexity for small business and ensuring tax competitiveness
- Enhanced small business training and information resources, with increased access in all regions of British Columbia

Paul Skelton, President of Revelstoke Mountain Resort, shows Mayor Mark McKee and Minister Thorpe the resort development site and site of the future gondola line. The tour was part of the Roundtable's trip to Revelstoke to visit small businesses and host a small business consultation on July 11, 2007.

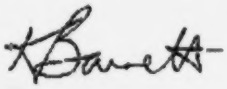
The Roundtable will also continue its dialogue with the small business community through further consultations and business tours to identify key issues and opportunities to enhance the small business climate in British Columbia.

This Report is endorsed by the Small Business Roundtable Members:



Linda Larson
Vice-Chair,
Small Business Roundtable and
Former Mayor of Oliver

Christina Anthony
Director and Portfolio Manager,
Odlum Brown Limited and
President and Founder,
Forum for Women Entrepreneurs



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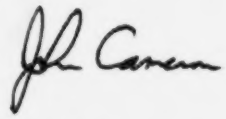

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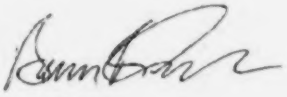

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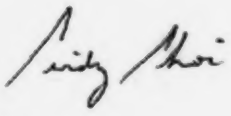

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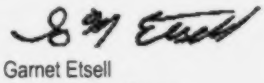

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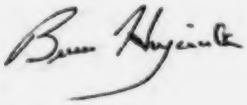
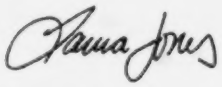
Coligny Hill Farms Ltd. and
Spring Meadow Farms Ltd.

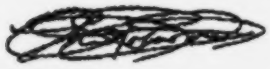


Bruce A. Hryciuk
Senior Partner,
Hryciuk Gallinger & Co., Inc.
Certified General Accountants

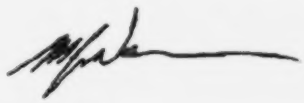


Laura Jones
Vice-President,
British Columbia and Yukon
Canadian Federation of Independent
Business

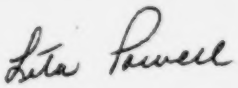
David Littlejohn
Professional Campground Operator,
Living Forest Oceanside
Campground



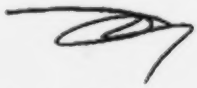
Robert Louie
Chair, First Nations Land
Advisory Board and
Chief, Westbank First Nation



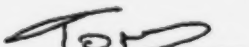
Mark Nairn
Owner and President,
Beamac Installations Ltd. and
Owner, Bar M7 Ranch



Lita Powell
President,
Li-Car Management Group

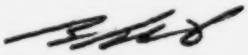


J. Murray Presley
Councillor,
City of Courtenay and
Managing Partner,
Presley & Partners
Chartered Accountants



Tony Singh
President,
Fruitcana Produce Ltd.

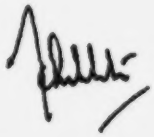
Mark Startup
President and CEO,
Retail British Columbia



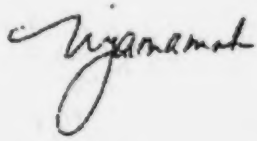
Bruce Sutherland
Owner and President,
WolfTEK Industries Inc.

Ian Tostenson
President and CEO,
British Columbia Restaurant &
Food Services Association

M.J. Whitemarsh
CEO,
Canadian Home Builders'
Association British Columbia



John R. Winter
President and CEO,
British Columbia Chamber of
Commerce



Naomi Yamamoto
Owner,
Tora Design Group and
President and General Manager,
North Vancouver Chamber of
Commerce

APPENDIX A

Letter to all BC Mayors and Councillors

August 27, 2007

Dear Mayor and Council,

At the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention in October 2006, Premier Gordon Campbell encouraged UBCM and local governments to establish a single business licence in the province of British Columbia by 2008. As members of the small business community, we support this initiative and encourage all municipalities across the province to work with the provincial government to implement the single business licence.

Many leaders in the business community are working with the provincial government, local government, UBCM and other key stakeholders to create a single business licence that will streamline the licensing process to help the growth of small business in your community.

We also have representation on the Provinces Single Business Licence Advisory Group, comprised of representatives from the UBCM Executive, the Small Business Roundtable, the BC Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the Economic Development Association of BC and former city administrators.

To date, over a dozen consultations with provincial government, local government management associations, UBCM area associations, the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce and other key partners have taken place. These consultations will shape a proposal for how the single business licence will work for both our small business and local government partners.

Small business owners are busy and often don't have time to spend their days filling out multiple business licence forms and paperwork. Their precious time needs to be spent on priorities - like running and growing their small business. A single business licence is about making things easier for small businesses to operate in British Columbia. We believe the creation of a single business licence attract more people to start a business in British Columbia which will have a positive impact on your community. It's a win-win situation and the time is right to start making it easier for small business operators to work in British Columbia.

Appendix A (Cont'd)

We strongly believe the Single Business Licence Initiative will preserve municipalities' capacity to regulate business activity within their jurisdictions, while enhancing economic development and reducing regulatory burden for citizens, taxpayers and businesses. We urge all municipalities across British Columbia to come to the table and support a single business licence for all British Columbians.

Yours Truly,

John Winter, BC Chamber of Commerce

Ian Tostenson, BC Restaurant and Food Services Association

James Chase, BC & Yukon Hotel's Association

Laura Jones, Canadian Federation of Independent Business

Mark Startup, Retail BC

cc: Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier

Honourable Rick Thorpe
Minister of Small Business and Revenue

Honourable Ida Chong
Minister of Community Services

Brenda Binnie, President
Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Small Business Roundtable

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT TO GOVERNMENT

October 2007